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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name North Side School
other names/site number McKinley School (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 17th Street and Home Avenue
city, town Columbus
state Indiana code IN county Bartholomew code 005 zip code 47201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
Date: 6/23/88
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[] determined eligible for the National Register.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action: 8/24/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION:school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE:limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

McKinley School is situated on the southern half of a city block, which is about half the width of adjacent blocks to the west and east (see attached site plan). Houses to the east, west, north and south of the McKinley block all face the school. The houses immediately surrounding the school block appear to have been constructed about the same time as the school; most are modest frame houses. (The addition in which McKinley is located was platted the year before McKinley was built.) Two buildings which are not contemporary with the school are the former United Brethren Church (1922), at the northeast corner of 17th Street and Home Avenue, and a laundry at the southwest corner of 17th and Home.

McKinley is comprised of two sections: the original section constructed in 1892, which is approximately 73 feet wide by 38 feet deep; and the addition constructed in 1942, which is approximately 127 wide and 38 feet deep (see site plan). The building is a 2½ story red brick structure with a rough face limestone base, and a hipped roof (see photo numbers 1, 3, 4, and 5).

The original section, Richardsonian Romanesque in style, has a five bay front (south) facade (see photo number 1). The central bay of this facade has a low springing, round arch opening of rockfaced limestone which defines a recessed, ground level entry (see photo number 2). The abutments of the arch contain the names of the township trustees (west side) and the architect and builder (east side). The doors of this entry are wood and multi-paned glass (still intact, but boarded over on the exterior). Above the arch, this central bay projects slightly from the facade and has a front gable roof. Between the first and second levels is a tablet inscribed, "NORTH SIDE SCHOOL/ERECTED 1892." Above this, on the second level, are a group of three narrow windows. Directly above these are a group of three square blind attic openings filled with original metal panels, and above those, in the gabled section, are three round-arched vents. At the top of the gabled section is a square vent. Six stone stringcourses span the upper projecting section of the central bay: at its base, at the second story sills, at the base and impost levels of the round-arched vents, and below and above the rectangular vent.

There are two hipped roof dormers with vented openings on this front facade, one each centered above the two west bays and the two east bays. Each of the other bays of the facade has paired windows with a limestone sill and rockfaced limestone head on both the first and second levels. There is also a basement window for each bay.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1892-1942

Significant Dates

1892

1942

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Sparrell, Charles F., Architect

Coats, W.F., Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

McKinley School is significant for its role, for 90 years, in the education of Columbus children, and as a work of the important local architect, Charles F. Sparrell.

The first public school building in Columbus, Central School, was erected in 1859, expanded in 1873, and reconstructed in 1904. Other public schools were built in 1877 (Lincoln), 1880 (Jefferson), 1886 (Washington), 1892 (McKinley), and 1896 (Garfield). These were built in response to rapid population growth which took place in the 1850's and 1860's. After that period, the population grew at an increasingly lower rate until the 1930's, when a population boom which was to continue into the 1970's began. Between 1896 and 1952, no new schools were constructed, though some existing schools were expanded. Between 1952 and 1973, eleven new schools were constructed in Columbus. None of the schools constructed since 1952 have been designed by local architects. All but one were designed by nationally renowned architects through the modern architecture program of the Cummins Engine Foundation, which pays architectural fees for many public buildings in Columbus. The exception was designed by an Indianapolis firm. Thus McKinley School is one of the six original public schools, that served Columbus from the 19th century until the mid-20th century, and that include the only examples of schools designed by local firms.

After Central became the High School and Washington the Junior High in 1904, and until the 1950's, the elementary schools were Lincoln, Jefferson, McKinley and Garfield. All four schools were similar in size and appointments. Lincoln and Jefferson, constructed in 1877 and 1880, respectively, were built in older neighborhoods which began to decline in prestige as new north side additions were platted. North side residency was made practical by the construction of the street car line in 1890, and later by the automobile. At the time of its construction, McKinley was at the northernmost limits of the city in a newly developing area. Garfield was built four years after McKinley and was also in a newly developing area. Of the early schools, all but Jefferson are still in existence. Only Central is still in use as a school. Lincoln has been rehabilitated as office space. Washington houses apartments. McKinley and Garfield are vacant.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Acme Publishing Company, Descriptive Atlas of Bartholomew County. Chicago: Acme Publishing Company, 1900.

Brant and Fuller, History of Bartholomew County, Indiana. Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1888.

Caron Directory Company, Caron's Directory of the City of Columbus, Indiana for 1915-16. Louisville: Caron Directory Company, 1915.

Caron Directory Company, Caron's Directory of the City of Columbus, Indiana for 1923-24. Louisville: Caron Directory Company, 1923.

"The City's Schools," The Evening Republican (Columbus, Indiana). December 1, 1982.

Division of Research and Field Services, School of Education, Indiana University, A Cooperative Study of the Public Schools of Columbus, Indiana. Bloomington, Indiana: Division of Research and Field Services. School of Education, Indiana University, 1957.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.18

UTM References

A 16 593920 4341090
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

McKinley School replat of lots 94-101 in Keyes and Stobos Addn. to the City of Columbus; or, the block bounded by Union Street on the west, 18th Street on the north, Home Avenue on the east, and 17th Street on the south. The boundary comprises the entire school grounds, which are the same as when the school was established in 1892

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the block historically associated with the school.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Thayer, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization NA date September 21, 1987

street & number 3905 North 500W telephone 812/372-6806

city or town Columbus state Indiana zip code 47201

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The east and west facades of the original section are identical to each other. Originally, each had five windows on each level, with the three center windows of each level grouped (see photo numbers 3 and 5). During the 1942 expansion of the building, all but the northernmost windows of the first and second level of each of these facades was bricked in so that lockers could be installed on the inside walls. The new brickwork was well integrated with the existing brickwork, though faint outlines of the closed openings are still visible. The remaining first and second level windows have stone sills and lintels. Centered above each of these end facades is a hipped roof dormer. Each of the first and second level windows of the original section was a double hung four over two window, except the windows on the second level of the central bay on the front of the building, which were double hung, one over one. Sometime after the 1942 addition, all the windows in the building were replaced with aluminum double hung windows with transoms (see photo 4). The window openings were unchanged.

The original building also included a 50 foot wide by 12 foot deep section on the north side of the building. This section, which was removed when the 1942 addition was built, housed the original staircases, as well as a rear entry.

The roof of the original section was initially slate, but was replaced sometime after the 1942 expansion with an asphalt shingle roof. The building has copper gutters and a wood fascia (both old and new sections).

The addition's exterior is very similar to the original section. The brick and limestone of both sections are nearly identical. Windows and doors of the 1942 section are similar to original windows and doors. (See photos numbers 3 and 5). Window openings on the north side of the addition (see photo number 4) are somewhat different, as they are larger than the other window openings, with each opening having a group of three windows, and have a brick soldier course in the place of a limestone head. Windows in the 1942 addition were originally wood double hung, four over one, like the original windows in the 1892 section.

Two designs for the roof of the 1942 section were submitted. One design was for a flat roof. The design which was selected was for a hipped roof, like the one in the old section of the building.

The basement is accessible from the north side of the addition from an exterior corridor which runs the length of the building (see photo number 4).

The interior of the 1892 section originally had two classrooms on each floor, an entry hall on the first floor, an office on the second floor, and a stair tower. The basement also had two rooms. The floors were hardwood and the walls were plaster. At the time of the addition, the 1892 interior was remodeled. Classrooms were reduced in size so that restrooms could be added, and interior finishes were changed especially in the hallways. The front entry configuration is original, with double doors opening at ground level and a set of steps leading up to the first level. (The building has a raised basement.) The original hardwood floors

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(under later asphalt tile) and plaster walls are still in existence in the old classrooms, although windows, doors, and trim have been changed. Dropped plaster ceilings were also added in 1942.

The 1942 addition contains a cafeteria, industrial arts room, and boiler room in the basement, four classrooms each on the first and second levels, and an enclosed stairway at each end of the addition. Corridors and restrooms have terrazzo floors and glazed tile walls from floor to ceiling (see photo number 6). Classrooms in the addition have asphalt tile floors, and glazed tile on about the bottom 3½ feet of two of the walls. There were blackboards on two walls of every classroom, but these have been removed. There is a wall of lockers in every classroom. All classroom doors are wood with metal frames.

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Jefferson was demolished to make way for a new building in 1952.

The architect of McKinley was Charles F. Sparrell. Though Sparrell practiced architecture in Columbus for less than 20 years (the early 1880's until the late 1890's), he had the greatest impact on the face of the city of any 19th century architect and probably of any local architect in Columbus' history. The known extant buildings of Sparrell, other than McKinley, are old City Hall, the Methodist Episcopal Church, a commercial block at 518-520 Washington Street, the old Post Office, Washington School, Garfield School, the A. Overstreet House, the J.A. Weller House, the Prall House, and the Odd Fellows Building. At least five other Sparrell-designed buildings have been demolished and two others have been altered beyond recognition.

Old City Hall, McKinley School, Garfield School, the old Post Office, and the Methodist Episcopal Church are Richardsonian Romanesque in style. These are the only buildings of this style in Columbus. Of these, old City Hall, McKinley, and Garfield stand out as the three best examples of this style, and as the three most distinctive examples of Sparrell's work in Columbus. They are all constructed of brick with stone trim. With massive proportions and large, round arch entries, they are all the type of monumental public building for which the style was intended. Each building has other distinctive details as well. City Hall and Garfield have large square towers above the entry. McKinley has a gable roof central pavilion. In keeping with the style, each building has stone banding. Old City Hall and Garfield also have decorative brickwork.

All of these buildings have a high degree of integrity on the exterior. In all three cases, the interiors have been altered to some degree, and windows have been replaced. Old City Hall is the largest and most elaborately detailed of the Richardsonian Romanesque buildings, although Garfield and McKinley are more pleasing in composition and design. All three buildings are, however, significant local works of the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

The other two Richardsonian buildings are less pure examples of the style. The old Post Office faces Washington Street (the main commercial street) and has the appearance of a commercial building rather than a public building. The building is rusticated concrete block, and has some round arch openings, a square corner tower, and several Queen Anne oriel windows. Its integrity is generally good, except for the first floor facade, which has been completely altered. The Methodist Episcopal Church is brick with stone trim. As the result of a 1960's remodeling, some of the building's main features were altered. A square corner tower was replaced with a colonial steeple, and the entrance was moved from the corner to the side of the building.

Sparrell's other Columbus buildings are in the Queen Anne and Italianate styles and are less significant examples of his work, simply because there are numerous other examples of both styles in Columbus. All have good to excellent integrity.

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The extant historic schools not designed by Sparrell are Lincoln and Central. Both buildings have good integrity. Lincoln has its original windows, eave brackets, window heads and other exterior details. It has been remodeled on the interior, very sympathetically, for use as office space. The building is missing a tower, which was originally on the roof, above the front entry. Lincoln is the oldest extant school building in Columbus. Central, reconstructed in 1904, neoclassical in style, has fairly new (and unsympathetic) windows and exterior doors, but otherwise has good integrity. Central, now a junior high school, is the only historic school in Columbus still in use as a school.

McKinley was constructed at a cost of about \$10,000. The builder of record was W.F. Coats, who was a partner in the local firm of Dunlap and Coats (a company which survives to the present day as Dunlap and Company) from 1885 to 1900. (Coats is not known to have built any other buildings during this time on his own, without Dunlap. However, J.R. Dunlap was a township trustee at the time the school was built. His involvement in the construction would probably have been perceived as a conflict of interest, since the township trustees were, at that time, responsible for the schools.) Dunlap and Coats worked on the Madison and Rush County Courthouses, the Indiana Reformatory, and business blocks in Rushville, Mitchell and Medora, according to an 1898 sketch of the company. The firm most likely constructed many other commercial and residential structures in Columbus and other towns, though this cannot be confirmed, as all company records were destroyed by fire.

McGuire and Shook of Indianapolis were architects for the building's addition, designed in 1941 and constructed in 1942. The trustees must have anticipated the eventual need for an addition, as an 1892 report in The Evening Republican, the local paper at the time, evidences: "(The building) is so constructed that four or more rooms may be added to it, as will be necessary by future development." ("The City's Schools," The Evening Republican, Columbus, Indiana, December 1, 1892.) The addition was designed to be compatible with the original building. The addition comprises a significant part of the building and its history and should be considered part of the historic property, even though it is only 45 years old. Historically, this is justified since the addition predates the post-war/baby boom period, and the new era of schools that began in 1952.

The school was originally known as North Side School. The name McKinley was adopted between 1903 and 1915, in memory of the assassinated President. Although North Side was the original name and is engraved on the building, McKinley is preferred for National Register identification purposes. The building has been known as McKinley much longer than it was known as North Side (at least 72 years as McKinley versus 25 years as North Side). Also, the name North Side has no significance in regards to the 1942 addition, which is part of the historic property. Listing the building as McKinley will help avoid confusion in Columbus, where there is another school named Northside (designed by Harry Weese and built in 1961).

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Charles Emerson's Columbus Directory, 1882-83. Indianapolis: Carlon and Hollenbeck, 1882.

Fish, Henry R., "Illustrated Columbus, Indiana, 1914-15."

McGuire and Shook, Architects, Indianapolis, Indiana. Plans for the addition and remodeling of McKinley School, Columbus, Indiana, 1941.

"Many Buildings," The Evening Republican (Columbus, Indiana). August 6, 1892.

R.L. Polk and Company, Biennial Directory of Columbus and Bartholomew County, 1889-99. Detroit: R.L. Polk and Company, 1889.

"Souvenir Program, Grand Army of the Republic, Columbus, Indiana, 1898."

"Sparrell Created Columbus' Early Image," The Republic (Columbus, Indiana). August 2, 1979.

Coons, Coke. Author of Arvin . . . The First Sixty Years. Columbus, Indiana. Interview, September 6, 1987.

Cummings, Ann. Retired School Teacher, Columbus, Indiana. Interview, September 6, 1987.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Census of Population, 1830-1980.